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(56) Documents Cited

GB 2272667 A GB 1569850 A EP 0222424 A1  
US 5173081 A

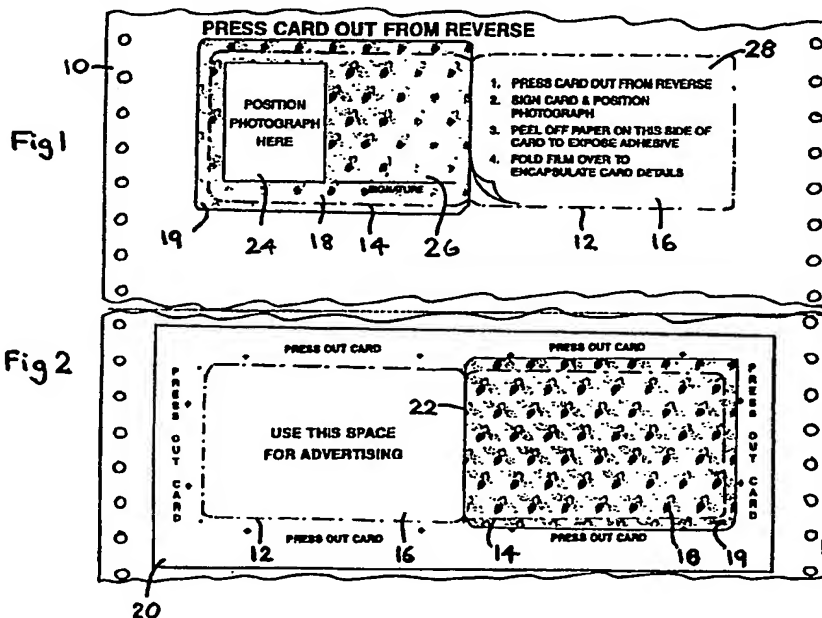
(58) Field of Search

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(54) Laminated documents

(57) A continuous web of printable material such as card 10 has individual sections within which pairs of adjoining portions 16, 18 are defined. On one face, a release agent has been applied over one portion 16 and adhesive plastics film (20 Fig. 2) has been applied over both portions, adhering peelably to the first portion (16) and permanently to the second portion 18. The web 10 is cut so that a blank consisting of the two portions 16, 19 and overlying film (20) is removable, and the first portion is separable from the second portion.

For use, the exposed face of the second portion 18 is personalised, e.g. by application of a photograph and a signature. The first card portion 16 is then peeled from the film (20) which is folded over and adhered over the personalised face, thus producing a laminated card with plastics film bonded to both faces.



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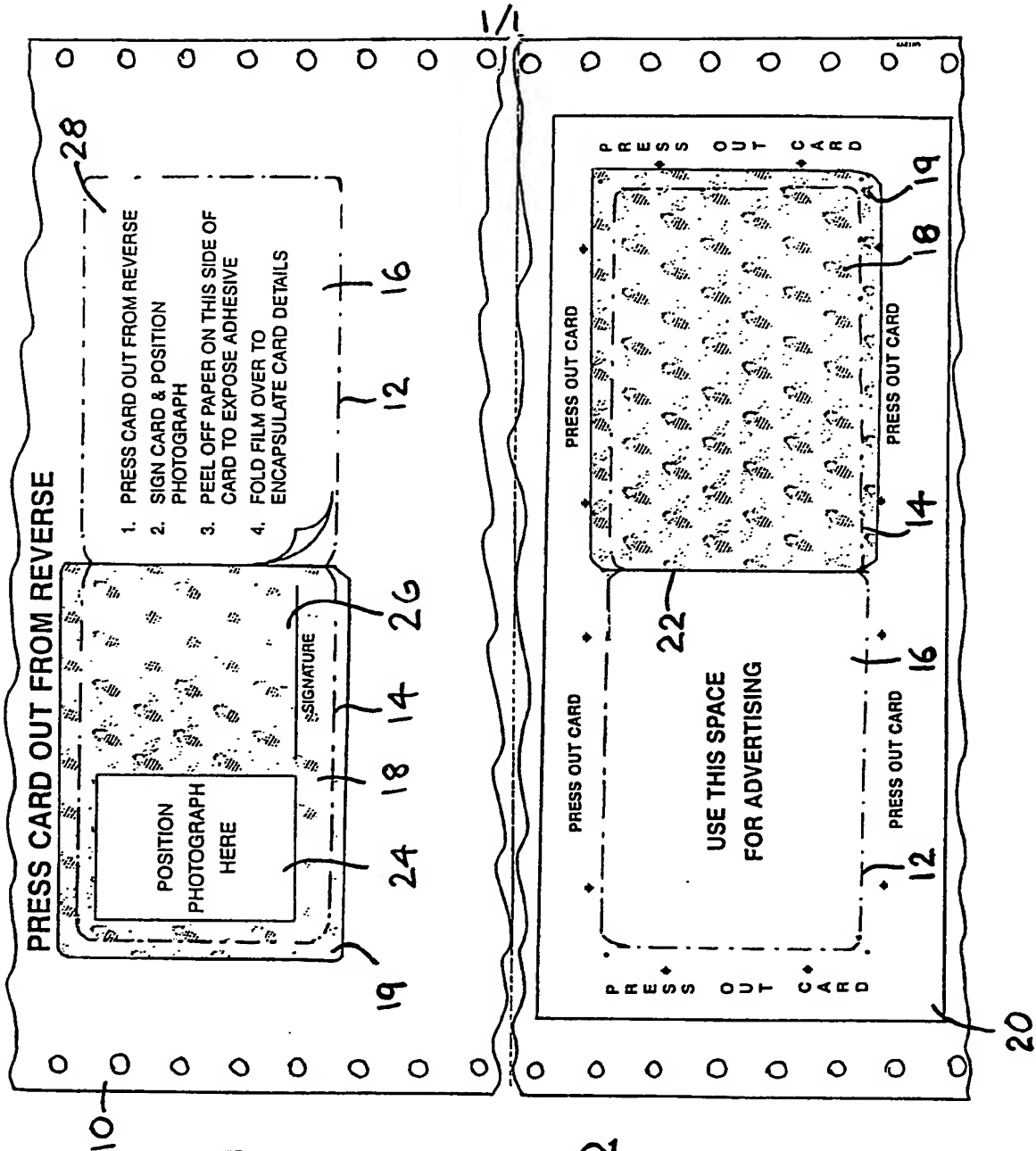


Fig 1

Fig 2

LAMINATED DOCUMENTS

The present invention relates to laminated documents, to blanks for use in their production, and to  
5 methods for the production of such blanks and documents.

A laminated document will, in general, have a surface portion which has been personalised, e.g. by attachment of a photograph and/or by provision of a signature, and which has then been covered by a clear plastics film.

10 According to the invention in one aspect, there is provided a blank comprising a sheet of paper or other printable material, a plastics sheet adhered to one face of the printable material, a first portion of the printable material being peelably adhered to the film and  
15 adjoining a second portion; so that the printable sheet can be peeled from the first portion to expose adhesive film, which can then be adhered over the second portion.

Preferably the first and second portions are adapted to be separated from the rest of the sheet of printable  
20 material and from each other, e.g. being surrounded by lines of weakness such as cut lines, interrupted by small nibs. Preferably the second portion has plastics film adhered to it non-peelably.

The peelable region may be provided by coating the printable material with a releasing agent, such as an ink comprising a silicone.

Typically, in use, the face of the second portion  
5 that is not covered by the plastics film will be personalised, and then the exposed film of the first portion will be adhered over it, leading to a card which has film securely bonded to the personalised face (and preferably also to the reverse face).

10 A method of producing a blank may comprise a step of providing a web of printable material, applying a release agent to a first portion, adhering a clear plastics film to cover at least the first portion and an adjacent second portion; and preferably providing a cut line  
15 extending around the first and second portions so as either to separate them completely from the web or to provide a separatable line of weakness, the cut line also extending between the first and second portions. A method of producing a document has the further steps of  
20 adding indicia to the uncoated face of the second portion, removing the printable material from the first portion, and adhering the film of the first portion to the indicia-bearing face of the second portion.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a view of one face of a blank embodying the invention; and

Fig. 2 is a view of the reverse face of the blank.

The drawings show part of a continuous web 10 of thin card or other printable material. Chain-dotted lines 12, 14 indicate a first portion 16 and a second portion 18. The second portion 18 may be defined within a decorative area 19. On the reverse face shown in fig. 2, an area of self-adhesive plastics film 20 has been applied to the card 10, so as to cover both portions 16, 18 and a surrounding area. The adhesive is selected so that the film bonds essentially permanently to the material of the web. However, prior to the application of the film 20, the first portion 16 was printed with a silicone material such that the film adheres to it peelably.

After the application of the film, the assembly is cut along the chain-dotted lines 12, 14. The cut is not continuous, but small nibs remain. Thus the portions remain connected to the main web, but can easily be

separated from it. The line 22 between them likewise has an interrupted cut. This preferably extends through the material of the web 10 but not through the film 20, which may be creased along this line so that it folds easily.

5        Thus there are a pair of portions 16, 18 of card, with plastics film bonded to one face. On the other face, the card is exposed. On the second portion 18, this exposed face is adapted to be personalised. Thus there may be a location 24 for application of a  
10 photograph, and further locations 26 for personalising data, such as a signature and/or a fingerprint. The first portion 16 of card will not form part of the final product. Thus it may be used to convey information 28 relevant to the production of the final product (i.e. the  
15 laminated document). In use, the exposed face of the second portion 18 is personalised, and then the card of the first portion 16 is peeled away, to expose the adhesive film beneath. At this stage or earlier, the surrounding cuts 12, 14 are completed to separate the  
20 portions from the web. The exposed film is then folded over the intermediate line 22, and pressed down over the personalised face of the second portion 18. The result is a card which has a personalised face, and which is

coated on both sides with clear plastics film.

Claims

1. A blank for use in forming a laminated document, said blank comprising a sheet of paper or other printable material, a plastics sheet adhered to one face  
5 of the printable material, a first portion of the printable material being peelably adhered to the film and adjoining a second portion of the same printable material, so that the printable sheet can be peeled from the first portion to expose adhesive film, which can then  
10 be adhered over the second portion.

2. A blank according to claim 1 wherein the first and second portions are adapted to be separated from the rest of the sheet of printable material and from each other.

15 3. A blank according to claim 1 wherein the first and second portions are each surrounded by lines of weakness.

4. A blank according to any preceding claim wherein the second portion has plastics film adhered to  
20 it non-peelably.

5. A blank according to any preceding claim wherein the peelable portion has been provided by coating that portion of the printable material with a releasing



agent.

6. A blank for use in forming a laminated document substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

5 7. A continuous stationery assembly which provides a multiplicity of blanks according to any preceding claim and comprises an elongate web of printable material successive sections of which have discrete portions of plastics sheet adhered to them, the plastics sheet  
10 portions being of smaller extent than the sections but overlying at least the first portions thereof.

8. A method of producing a blank for use in forming a laminated document comprising a step of providing a web of printable material, applying a release  
15 agent on one face of a first portion, which is adjacent a second portion; and adhering a clear plastics film to cover at least the first portion.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the plastics film is also adhered to the second portion which  
20 is adjacent the first portion and to which the release agent was not applied.

10. A method according to claim 9 including a step of providing a cut line extending around the first and

second portions so as either to separate them completely from the web or to provide a separatable line of weakness, the cut line also extending between the first and second portions.

5           11. A method according to any of claims 8-10 wherein the web of printable material is elongate and provides a multiplicity of successive sections to each of which the method is applied in turn to provide a multiplicity of blanks.

10           12. A method of producing a blank or a continuous stationery assembly which provides a multiplicity of blanks, the method being substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

15           13. A method of providing a laminated document comprising carrying out the method of any of claims 8 to 12 or providing a blank according to any of claims 1-6 or an assembly according to claim 7; applying indicia to the second portion of the printable material on the face  
20 remote from the plastics film; peeling the first portion away from the plastics film; and adhering the plastics film thus exposed over the indicia-bearing face of the second portion.

**Patents Act 1977**  
**Examiner's report to the Comptroller under Section 17**  
**(The Search report)**

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 GB 9509558.4

**Relevant Technical Fields**

- (i) UK Cl (Ed.N)      B6A (AK)  
 (ii) Int Cl (Ed.6)      B42D 15/10

Search Examiner  
 M D WALKER

Date of completion of Search  
 4 AUGUST 1995

**Databases (see below)**

(i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.

Documents considered relevant  
 following a search in respect of  
 Claims :-  
 ALL

(ii) ONLINE: WPI

**Categories of documents**

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| <p><b>X:</b> Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.</p> <p><b>Y:</b> Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.</p> <p><b>A:</b> Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.</p> | <p><b>P:</b> Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.</p> <p><b>E:</b> Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.</p> <p><b>&amp;:</b> Member of the same patent family; corresponding document.</p> |
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Category	Identity of document and relevant passages		Relevant to claim(s)
X	GB 2272667 A	(KALAMAZOO) whole document	1, 3, 7, 8
X	GB 1569850	(VICKERS) whole document	1, 8
X	EP 0222424 A	(SPECIAALDRUKKERIJ) whole document	1, 8
X	US 5173081	(MOORE) note Abstract, for example	1, 8

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